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FOOD AID

Canada supports the efforts of developing countries in the agricultural and fisheries sectors and, in addition, contributes to improving world food security by providing foodstuffs: first, to meet the emergency needs of countries affected by major disasters; second, to meet the short to medium-term needs of poorer countries who need food to supplement their supplies while they improve agricultural output; and third, to use as "development capital" to enable them to avoid depleting scarce foreign exchange and budgetary funds for food imports rather than for development projects in the agricultural and other sectors.

Canada's food aid policy

The central objectives of Canadian food aid are to alleviate human suffering, to remove an otherwise major constraint on development activities in recipient countries, and to enhance food and agricultural production through the provision of food commodities which complement and supplement the countries' plans and strategies for increased food output.

Food aid is normally financed by grant aid rather than through loans. It is provided to meet the nutritional needs of the poorest of the poor, to enable the recipient government to establish national food reserves and to contribute to the recipient government's food strategy, including the funding of agricultural projects. Food aid, like other forms of development cooperation, is basically a response to Third World need. But taking into account the part it represents in the whole range of development assistance, its content (wheat and other grains, rapeseed oil, skim milk powder, etc.) and the delivery channels used it is also sensitive to Canada's domestic and international economic goals.

Delivery channels

At present Canadian food aid is either provided directly to the recipient country, under an agreement reached with it, or is channeled through international organizations, or is made available with the aid of Canadian non-governmental organizations. Total Canadian food aid disbursements through these three basic delivery channels in 1981-82 amounted to \$236 million. The table attached (p. 3) provides details of the various flows.

Bilateral food aid

Bilateral food aid, which is channeled directly from Canada to recipient governments, is available in the first instance to alleviate food emergencies caused by natural or man-made disasters. Under such conditions, Canadian food aid is provided, as a matter of principle, for free distribution to those most seriously affected. The bilateral approach is also used to

provide Canadian food commodities to low-income food deficit countries who plan to improve agricultural production. In such instances, food commodities will be distributed free to designated population target groups in the country or sold by the recipient government. Where all or part of the Canadian food aid is sold, the recipient government is required to apply the local revenues generated from the sale to development projects.

In 1981-82, Canada provided \$118.5 million in food aid through its bilateral programs. This represented approximately 18 per cent of total bilateral disbursements that year. Canada supplies mostly wheat or wheat flour, but also sends large quantities of milk powder, edible oils and other staples to the Third World. Canada pays shipping costs to Third World countries, which normally amount to 20 to 30 per cent of the value of the food.

Multilateral food aid

Canada's multilateral food aid is currently channeled through two UN agencies. Most of Canada's multilateral food aid is distributed through the World Food Program (WFP). WFP is a program of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) which provides food at the request of governments as an input into economic and social development projects and to meet emergency needs. The kinds of projects aided by the program include the feeding of expectant and nursing mothers and school children, the resettlement of groups and communities, land reclamation, road construction and related food-for-work schemes.

Canada contributed \$108.9 million to the World Food Program for 1981-82 and intends to increase its contribution to \$125 million per annum beginning in 1983-84. In 1981-82, about \$113.4 million, or 48 per cent of Canada's food aid, went through multilateral channels. This represented approximately 22 per cent of total multilateral contributions that year.

Canadian non-governmental organizations

CIDA also assists Canadian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in effecting food transfers to selected developing countries for specific project purposes. In 1981-82, \$4 million of Canadian food aid went through the NGO channel. This represented approximately 3 per cent of the total aid to NGOs (\$120.4) for that year.

CIDA provided \$2 million from its food aid budget for 10 Canadian NGOs that distributed powdered milk in developing countries through food-for-work projects, institutional feeding programs and disaster relief. The NGOs involved were Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Compassion of Canada, Food for the Hungry/Canada, the Mennonite Central Committee, Terre des Hommes, Canadian Save the Children Fund, the Salvation Army, the Unitarian Service Committee, World Vision and Collaboration santé internationale.

In addition, CIDA also contributed \$2 million to the Mennonite Central Committee's Food Bank in 1981-82. This organization responds to emergency food situations and supports efforts to increase local food production in developing countries.

TABLE
Food Aid Recipients
(\$ million)

	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82
Multilateral Food Aid			
World Food Program	94.58	97.85	108.96
UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees	3.25	3.50	4.48
International Emergency Food Reserve		5.47	
Sub-total: Multilateral Food Aid	97.83	106.82	113.64
Bilateral Food Aid			
Asia			
Bangladesh	39.35	39.33	29.92
China			4.00
India	19.94	2.98	8.08
Nepal		.25	
Pakistan			1.96
Sri Lanka	3.98		5.88
Sub-total: Asia	63.27	42.56	49.84
Africa			
Egypt			2.96
Ethiopia		3.95	9.27
Kenya			2.94
Mali			1.32
Mauritania		1.27	1.36
Morocco			.05
Mozambique	.06	2.60	5.55
Niger			.94
Rwanda	.52	1.28	1.53
Senegal	1.93	6.80	1.93
Somalia		2.84	4.77
Sudan	1.93	1.48	6.29
Tanzania	3.42	2.97	3.92
Uganda			1.99
Upper Volta			2.60
Zaire	3.23	2.49	2.94
Zambia	3.49		
Zimbabwe		2.44	.47
Sub-total: Africa	14.58	28.12	50.83

TABLE (Continued)
Food Aid Recipients
(\$ million)

	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82
Central America and the Caribbean			
Dominica	.92		
Jamaica*	1.94	2.49	11.09
Nicaragua			4.48
Sub-total: Central America and the Caribbean	2.86	2.49	15.57
South America			
Peru			2.32
Sub-total: South America			2.32
Europe			
Portugal	3.00		
Sub-total: Bilateral Food Aid	83.71	73.17	118.56
Other Food Aid Programs			
Voluntary Agricultural Development Assistance Program	.73		
Canadian Non-Governmental Organizations	1.94	2.00	2.00
Mennonite Central Committee	1.50	1.50	2.00
Emergency Relief Funds			
Kampuchea	2.00		
Sub-total: Other Food Aid Programs	6.17	3.50	4.00
Total Food Aid	187.71	183.49	236.00

* Food aid is normally provided in grant form, but in 1978 Canada extended a line of credit (loan) to Jamaica for the purchase of Canadian foodstuffs.

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